

NOV 24 1966

Approved For Release 1999/09/07 : CIA-RDP75

CPYRGHT

FOIAb3b

CPYRGHT

Lodge Aide in Wide Pacification Role

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Nov. 22. United States Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge announced today a far-reaching reorganization of the United States mission in South Vietnam designed to give new impetus to the lagging rural pacification program.

Under the new system, all American civilians working outside of Saigon will be responsible to a single man, the J. Porter, rather than to the heads of individual agencies as before.

The change involves more than 500 employees of the Agency for International Development, the United States Information Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency. Each of these organizations has field representatives in South Vietnam's four corps headquarters and 44 provincial capitals.

In recent months, a mission spokesman said, "We have been having a fair number of left-hand, right-hand problems." Observers in areas remote from Saigon cite cases where, for example, intelligence and aid representatives have been working at cross-purposes.

The problem has been most acute with regard to pacification workers being trained in 59-man teams at Vungtau. Their task is to follow troops into villages and hamlets and rebuild the social, economic and political institutions disrupted by the Vietcong.

President Johnson and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara are known to be displeased with the pace of pacification work. They have been exerting what one official called "unprecedented pressure" on the mission here for faster progress, and the reorganization is in part a response to this pressure.

American officials warned, however, that the new system could, at best, have only a limited effect. It will neither produce more pacification teams nor guarantee that they are used in the most efficient possible way, because much of the effort is responsibility of the South Vietnamese Government.

The individual agencies will continue to provide personnel, equipment, supplies, funds and planning for field operations. The aid mission in Saigon, for example, will supply cement for village schools and recommend where they should be built, but it will be Mr. Porter's responsibility to carry and the project.

The Assistant Deputy Ambassador, Henry D. T. Koren will work with Mr. Porter, and a director of operations will be appointed to oversee field work on a day-to-day basis.

Informed sources said an American civilian already in Vietnam would fill this post.

In each corps headquarters—Danang, Pleiku, Bienhoa and Cantho—and in each provincial capital, an operations director will be named as the chief American civilian adviser to the South Vietnamese regional or province chief. The sources said some appointees would be chosen from among men already in South Vietnam and others would be brought here.

The new system appeared certain to reduce the power of a number of American officials including Barry Zorthian, director of Information Agency Operations, Donald K. McDonald, the new Agency for International Development director, and the Central Intelligence station chief. However, it will not affect Edward G. Lansdale, a retired Air Force general who serves as a special officer with the South Vietnamese Ministry of Rural Reconstruction.

Mr. Porter, who is 52 years old, was Ambassador to Algeria before coming to South Vietnam last year.